Schemes for tribals

691. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort is being made towards ensuring that girls and boys of the Oraon, Munda, Santhali and Ho tribes populating Gumla, Ranchi, Simdega, Chaikasa and Dumka get into nursing courses; and

(b) whether any special scheme is there to bring these tribals at par with non-tribals in providing employment?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements a Centrally sponsored scheme *viz.,* the Post Matric Scholarship (PMS) Scheme for tribal students. Under this scheme all recognized Post Matric Courses including nursing courses offered by recognized institutions are covered. The scheme covers all ST students of the country who fulfil the eligibility criteria, including those of Gumla, Ranchi, Simdega, Chaikasa and Dumka areas.

(b) The Ministry implements a Central Sector Scheme *viz.,* vocational training in tribal areas to develop the skills of tribal youth to enable them to be self employed/gain employment. Under another scheme, *viz.,* coaching and allied services, special coaching is provided to tribal students to enable them to sit for various competitive examinations to enter the civil services, banks etc.

Funds for State Governments

692. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stopped releasing funds to some State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have noticed laxity on the part of some State Governments in implementing tribal welfare schemes; and